

our soldiers and in many cases your families, are the world's most visible and powerful symbols of our nation's principles and ideals in action.

You show our humanity and decency by delivering emergency assistance to people in need, after a hurricane in Central America, an earthquake in Turkey or mudslides in Venezuela.

You show our nation's willingness to stand up to moral wrong by ending the horror and killing in Bosnia, in Kosovo and in East Timor, and by setting the stage for the birth of more democratic and tolerant governments that can offer the hope of a better life for all their peoples.

The presence of trained and ready soldiers in the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Korea clearly shows America's commitment to our friends and allies, as well as our unwavering stance against the aggression of potential enemies. That presence contributes directly to regional stability and security, and allows America to do business in foreign markets, fueling the economic growth that we enjoy today.

You can be justifiably proud of the accomplishments you have made for our nation during the past year. You can also be excited about the Army's bright future as we transform into a 21stcentury force that will protect and defend America in the years to come.

As you use this **Soldiers Almanac** to reflect on the accomplishments of 2000, we encourage you to also think about the important and powerful contributions to peace and prosperity you will make in future years. To that end, we wish you great success and look forward with you to a tremendously successful 2001.

> Eric K. Shinseki General, United States Army Chief of Staff

Louis Caldera Secretary of the Army



1LT Steve Cunningham of the 9th Inf. crawls beneath barbed wire during training at Camp Casey, Korea, on June 21, 2000. — Yu Hu Son

Front cover: ILT Duane Patin of the 10th Mtn. Div. takes part in the 18th Annual Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., on April 30, 2000. — Yu Hu Son

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## The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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